

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-26 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-26 have been amended. Claims 27 and 28 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-28 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 2, 4, 13, 15-17, and 20-26. Applicant has amended these claims in a manner that is not believed to affect their allowability.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, and 18-19 based on Droz et al., U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0136202. While Applicant disagrees with these rejections, Applicant has nonetheless amended these claims in order to advance prosecution. (Applicant does not concede that Droz actually constitutes prior art to the claims under § 102(e), and reserves the right to antedate this reference in the future.) With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Droz's "routing table" does not teach or suggest "receiv[ing] a packet," where "said packet includ[es] header data including *a first turn value specifying a second of the plurality of ports relative to the first port.*" As such, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct over Droz. Claims 14, 18, and 19 are believed to be patentably distinct over Droz for reasons similar to those provided in support of claim 1.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

Applicant has petitioned herewith for what is believed to be the appropriate extension of time. If any further extensions are necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6257-14502/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

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